

Mr. McCONNELL. Will the majority leader yield?

Mr. FRIST. Yes.

Mr. McCONNELL. I thank the majority leader for raising again the issue of the Burma sanctions bill. I say to him and our colleagues in the Senate that we have now been working for 2 days to try to get this matter cleared.

While we are involved in the minutia of the clearing process, Aung San Suu Kyi is still, in effect, in prison. We need to send a message to the military in Burma, and we need to send it this week.

I am not going to propound another unanimous consent request at the moment, but I want to put colleagues on notice that later in the day I will be doing that once again. In the meantime, the discussions continue. We hope we will be able to resolve this matter. I thank the majority leader very much for bringing that up.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 10 a.m., with the time equally divided between the majority and minority leaders or their designees.

The Senator from New Jersey is recognized.

RABBI BERNHARD ROSENBERG

Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, I rise now to thank Rabbi Bernhard Rosenberg for his stirring innovation this morning. This is only the latest honor to be conferred on Rabbi Rosenberg for his lifetime of distinguished service. He is a pillar in New Jersey's vibrant religious community, serving as a spiritual leader and educator, and his accomplishments speak for themselves.

If I might be personal, Rabbi Rosenberg is a terrific human being, whom I know personally. I am very pleased he joined us.

As the son of Holocaust survivors, Rabbi Rosenberg has taught numerous youngsters the importance of reflecting on that awful period in world history, a period which led to the deaths of more than six million Jews, as well as countless others. He has written many books on that subject, including "Contemplating the Holocaust" and "What the Holocaust Means to Me: Teenagers Speak Out."

Rabbi Rosenberg has served New Jersey in many capacities, including as a member of the New Jersey State Holocaust Commission, an appointee to the New Jersey Parole Board, and as the chairman of the Edison Human Rights Commission. For his years of commitment to the Jewish community and his humanitarian spirit, he has received a number of awards, including the Rabbi Israel Moshowitz Award by the New York Board of Rabbis, the Dr. Martin

Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award, and the Chaplain of the Year Award for his work relating to the September 11 attacks.

I take this opportunity to thank Rabbi Rosenberg for his years of service to the State of New Jersey, to the Jewish Community, and to the Nation. He has earned the profound respect of the people of New Jersey and this Senator.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, since 1789, every session of the Senate has been opened with prayer. I am proud that the Senate's guest Chaplain today, Rabbi Dr. Bernhard H. Rosenberg, is from my home State of New Jersey. Rabbi Rosenberg is the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth-El in Edison, NJ.

As the only child of Holocaust survivors, the late Jacob and Rachel Rosenberg, Rabbi Rosenberg has spent his life teaching the history and effects of the Holocaust.

In 1933, there were over 9 million Jews living in Europe. Almost 6 million were killed in the next 12 years. "Holocaust," translated from Greek, means "sacrifice by fire." The systematic persecution and genocide of millions of innocent people in Europe was a "sacrifice" the civilized world must never forget. I have met with Holocaust survivors, and I have seen the concentration camps. It was a hideous time in our world's history. But it is vital to learn about it, and it is vital to talk about it.

Rabbi Rosenberg serves his community as a leader, teacher, writer, and spiritual adviser. He is an impressively educated man, with multiple degrees in communication and education, and his ordination and doctorate of education from Yeshiva University in New York.

Rabbi Rosenberg teaches Holocaust Studies at the Moshe Aaron Yeshiva High School of Central New Jersey, and has taught at Rutgers University and Yeshiva University. Rabbi Rosenberg has authored four books, with "Theological and Halachic Reflections on the Holocaust" now in its second printing.

He is the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth-El and a model citizen in New Jersey.

Rabbi Rosenberg has dedication and commitment that is unparalleled. He is the editor of a Holocaust publication distributed by the Rabbinical Assembly and editor of the New York Board of Rabbis Newsletter. As Interfaith Chairman of the New Jersey State Holocaust Commission, Rabbi Rosenberg is associate editor of the State-mandated curriculum on Holocaust and Genocide.

Rabbi Rosenberg is chairman of the Human Rights Commission and chaplain of the Department of Public Safety, police and fire, of Edison, NJ. He is president and founder of the New Jersey Second Generation Holocaust Survivors' Group.

The work of Rabbi Rosenberg has not gone unnoticed. He recently received the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award. He also received the

Chaplain of the Year Award from the New York Board of Rabbis for his efforts during and following 9/11.

On June 10, 2002, Rabbi Rosenberg was presented with the annual Rabbi Israel Mowshowitz Award by the New York Board of Rabbis.

We are privileged to have Rabbi Rosenberg of Edison, NJ, to lead the Senate in prayer today.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Who yields time?

Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time during the quorum call be charged equally to both sides during the morning business period.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GLOBALIZATION AND BIOTERRORISM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I wish to take this opportunity in morning business to comment on issues of current events but also tied to the events of the last several years. The issues relate to the natural and the unnatural emergence and use of biology and microbes that have resulted in a convergence of two issues. One is this natural occurrence and one is the use of microbes, bacteria, viruses potentially as bioterror agents, all of that coupled with another nexus, globalization, the realization and evolution of a much smaller world in which we all live.

Globalization is generally addressed in the context of economics, economies of countries, information technologies, coffee shop franchises, luxury hotels, luxury clothing—what labels are on the backs of those sweaters and shirts—Internet surfing, instant messages.

Globalization has helped democratize faraway countries. It has brought wealth and comfort to many of the world's peoples. But it has always exposed us to new vulnerabilities which we have read about in recent years and, indeed, we read about each day in the papers. Specifically, globalization has brought us much closer to the threat of

natural disease as well as disease used potentially as an instrument of terror.

We can take, for example, the outbreak of monkeypox about which we are reading and listening today. We know monkeypox causes fever, headache, cough, and an extremely painful rash with pus-filled sores that can spread across the body. We know in children and those individuals who have a suppressed immune system, whether it is because of cancer or treatment for cancer or other autoimmune diseases, it can cause death.

Monkeypox is suspected to have originated with the importation of an exotic pet, actually a rather popular exotic pet called the Gambian giant rat. Then the monkeypox virus apparently jumped to infect the pet prairie dogs, and then jumped to infect human beings. We know there are 37 suspected or confirmed cases of monkeypox that are currently being investigated by the Centers for Disease Control. Public health officials, we learn, fear the prairie dog owners will release their infected pets into the wild and, thus, spread the disease through communities, regions, and, indeed, throughout North America.

Some also believe that this outbreak of monkeypox is the tip of a growing problem of infectious diseases being brought into the country through the importation of exotic animals.

Not too long ago—and, in fact, even right now—we focused on SARS. As we have seen with SARS, international travel by humans is also proving to be a conduit of disease. As I speak, Toronto is struggling with yet another suspected outbreak of SARS and at any point could go back on the World Health Organization's travel advisory list.

The SARS epidemic continues to disrupt international travel, continues to affect and, indeed, depress national economies.

Monkeypox, SARS, West Nile virus, which we know is seasonal—it has been 4 years since it first arrived in New York, and it has claimed 284 deaths and 4,156 infections. Several years ago, people did not know what West Nile virus was. Several months ago we did not know what SARS was, and several days ago we did not know what monkeypox was. Last year, just in this region of Maryland, Virginia, and the District, the West Nile virus killed 11 people. After what has been a wet spring in this region, where mosquito breeding is facilitated, officials fear—again not to be an alarmist—there will be another explosion of infections this summer. West Nile has spread across the United States of America. It is now firmly established, entrenched as a North American disease. West Nile, SARS, and now monkeypox—we will see emerging infections continue to appear, at least at this rate. These are the natural health threats.

Equally alarming is this whole arena of bioterrorism, the use of microbes, viruses, bacteria, and other microbes

as biological weapons to threaten others. This very body, the Senate, has been attacked with anthrax. We know there is an entity called the plague which, indeed, wiped out about a third of Europe in the 1300s.

We know the risk of smallpox. We know one gram of botulinum toxin, if aerosolized, has the potential for taking the lives of a million and a half people.

I mention all of this not to be an alarmist but to give some definition to what I think we all know today but we did not think very much about 3 or 5 years ago, and that is these threats, those of bioterrorism and the naturally occurring, are real.

With regard to bioterrorism, I do commend President Bush for successfully leading America and indeed the world to face these new realities of terrorists. We have disrupted terrorist networks. We have frozen terrorist assets. We have removed terrorist leaders and indeed have arrested more than 3,000 individual terrorists worldwide. We have toppled two of the world's most notorious terrorist regimes in Afghanistan and Iraq with decisive victories.

With regard to our domestic response, we are finally rebuilding our public health system after a long period of neglect. As a nation, this has enabled us to respond, in an appropriate way, to the potential spread of SARS much more effectively than other countries. We must continue to invest in and enhance our public health system to detect and respond to such emergencies, for, as I said earlier, we will see more.

We must actively lead the way to develop new treatments in vaccines, and that is why when I come to the floor each morning and mention the importance of vaccine research, vaccine development, and specifically bioshield legislation, which is sitting before this body perched and ready for us to act upon it, but there are certain problems we have had among ourselves in coming to an agreement, how best to bring that to the floor—but that bioshield legislation is in exact response to these issues I mention today.

I should also add that we, and our friends and allies across the world, must not allow other countries to pursue biological weapons programs. President Bush has set the United States, with the help of our allies, along a proper course to ultimately win the war on terror. I, for one, am grateful he and his national security team have answered the call to serve in this perilous time. We will defeat the forces of terror. We must take our enemies seriously, but because of globalization they are closer than ever. I am optimistic. We have an obligation in this body to respond and indeed prepare for and prevent, whether it is those naturally occurring infections or any attempt of others to use these biological agents as weapons of mass destruction.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. THOMAS. We are in morning business, is that correct?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. That is correct.

REFORM OF OUR GOVERNMENT

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I will make a couple of comments that are a little different than the subject we have been talking about. It is something that I do not have the recommendation as to how we resolve it particularly, but I am persuaded we need to spend a little more time on it, which I intend to, and that is government activities we are involved in. Of course, the many government activities we are involved in are probably the largest combined organizational thing we do in this country. It would be interesting to know, and I intend to see if there is not a way for all of us to do so, to get a look at all the kinds of programs and different activities the Federal Government is involved in. It is massive, of course.

We spend trillions of dollars on activities in the Federal Government. I do not suggest that is not legitimate. The Federal Government has a job to do and we need to do it. What I do believe is that because of the nature of it and because of the nature of this body, frankly, we do not really work very hard at ensuring that the delivery of these services is done as efficiently as it could be. We are a little different, of course, than the private sector in that there are some inherent barriers in the private sector. If one is not very efficient, they are not able to continue to compete with others and they are not able to go on. That is not true in the Government, of course. There is not that kind of limitation.

So it seems to me we ought to give a little more thought to how we do things. It is quite natural that when there is a need somewhere, through the political process we bring up some resolution to the need, some way to work on the need, and it usually creates a new agency or creates a new department within an agency or a new function, and there is no real way to ensure that that blends in to what is already being done in an efficient way.

There certainly must be lots of opportunities within this huge organization we have to be able to blend one thing in to another to do it more efficiently, to deliver it more efficiently. I think clearly there is reason to believe that activities that were begun 30 years ago may need to be reviewed to see if they still are needed, and if they are needed that they are done in a way that is most effective and efficient.

I am really not critical of the people who are doing these things. I am critical, I guess, or at least inquisitive about the system, because the system is set up in such a way that it does not have a way to even consider change